

CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. A drumhead quick disconnect comprising:
 - a latch that operably engages and applies tension to a drumhead of a drum;
 - 5 a lever arm that enables a person to move the lever in one direction to place the latch in a locked drumhead tensioning position and to move the lever arm in another direction to release the latch from the locked tensioning position;
 - an adjustment device that enables the person to position the latch relative to the cover to vary an amount of force applied by the latch when the latch is in the
 - 10 drumhead tensioning position; and
 - a mount coupled moveably to the lever arm, the mount configured and arranged to fasten the latch, lever arm and adjustment device to the drum.
2. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the latch has a hook
- 15 portion that loops over and engages a bracket fixed to the drumhead.
3. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 2, wherein the hook portion is closed so as to not come completely free from the bracket.
- 20 4. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the adjustment device varies a location of the latch relative to a point on the lever arm.
5. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the mount includes a flange that abuts and fastens to a side of the drum.
- 25 6. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the mount is configured and arranged to attach to a flange mounted to a side of the drum.
7. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the mount defines at least
- 30 two mounting holes that are configured and arranged to align with at least two mounting holes defined by the drum.

8. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the adjustment device includes a threaded shaft and an apparatus selected from the group consisting of: a nut threaded onto the shaft and a handle for turning the shaft through a fixed female thread.

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9. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the adjustment device is sized to be turned by the person when the latch is in the cover pulling position.

10. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, which includes at least one pivotal connection selected from the group consisting of: the latch being connected pivotally to the lever arm and the lever arm being connected pivotally to the mount.

11. The drumhead quick disconnect of Claim 1, wherein the latch is coupled moveably to one of the lever arm and the mount so that the latch does not come free when the lever arm is unlocked.

12. A drumhead quick disconnect assembly comprising:
a drumhead of a drum;
a latch that operably engages and applies tension to the drumhead; and
a lever arm that enables a person to move the lever in one direction to place the latch in a locked drumhead tensioning position and to move the lever arm in another direction to release the latch from the locked tensioning position.

13. The assembly of Claim 12, which includes an adjustment device that enables the person to position the latch relative to the cover to vary an amount of force applied by the latch when the latch is in the drumhead tensioning position.

14. The assembly of Claim 13, wherein the adjustment device varies a location of the latch relative to the lever arm.

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15. The assembly of Claim 13, wherein the adjustment device includes a threaded shaft and an apparatus selected from the group consisting of: a nut threaded onto the shaft and a knob for turning the shaft through a fixed female thread.
- 5 16. The assembly of Claim 13, wherein the adjustment device is sized to be turned by the person when the latch is in the cover pulling position.
17. The assembly of Claim 12, which includes a mount coupled moveably to the lever arm, the mount configured and arranged to be fastened to the drum.
- 10 18. The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the mount includes a flange that abuts and fastens to a side of the drum.
19. The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the mount is configured and arranged to
15 attach to a flange mounted to a side of the drum.
20. The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the mount defines at least two mounting holes that are configured and arranged to align with at least two mounting holes defined by the drum.
- 20 21. The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the latch is coupled moveably to one of the lever arm and the mount so that the latch does not come free when the lever arm is unlocked.
- 25 22. The assembly of Claim 12, wherein the latch has a hooked portion that loops over and engages a bracket fixed to the drumhead.
23. The assembly of Claim 22, wherein the hooked portion is closed so as to not come completely free from the latch.
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24. The assembly of Claim 12, which includes at least one pivotal connection selected from the group consisting of: the latch being connected pivotally to the lever arm and the lever arm being connected pivotally to the mount.
- 5 25. The assembly of Claim 12, wherein the drum is of a type selected from the group consisting of: conga, bongo, djembe, ashiko, doumbek, tabor, bombo, klong yaw, taval, sakara, mridangam, hudak, naals, dhols, dholks, tupan, djun-djuns, coffeehouse, standing, tabla, talking, madal, zarb and any combination thereof.
- 10 26. A quick disconnect method for a drum comprising the steps of:
providing a device that enables a person to move a lever arm in a first direction to release the device from a drumhead tensioning position when the person is finished playing the drum; and
wherein the lever arm can be moved in a second direction to place the device in
15 the drumhead tensioning position when the person wishes to play the drum.
27. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, wherein moving the lever arm includes rotating the lever arm.
- 20 28. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, which includes configuring the device to mount to a member mounted to a side of the drum or to mount directly to the side of the drum.
29. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, which includes configuring the
25 device to be used in place of a lug currently installed to tension the drumhead.
30. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, which includes configuring the device so that no portion of the device comes free when the device is released from the tensioning position.

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31. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, which includes configuring the device so that the drumhead does not come free from the drum when the device is released from the tensioning position.

- 5 32. The quick disconnect method of Claim 26, which includes configuring the device so that approximately a same amount of tension is applied each time the person places the device in the tensioning position.